

John L. DeConte

Phila. March 8th, 1877.
1625 Spruce St.

My dear Professor

At the request of several friends, my name will be presented to the President of the United States, for the vacancy ~~in~~ the Department of Agriculture which will soon occur.

If you think that my scientific knowledge will be useful to the farmers in protecting them against their insect foes, & other evils, & my administrative ability sufficient to enable me to organize the Department on a more efficient basis, please give me the benefit of all the influence you can command, by sending me letters to the President or to any person who could have in-

in directing his attention to my merits. If a strong push is not made, the place will again be filled by some uneducated politician, who will snub botanists & other men of science, & neglect the farmers.

Please act as promptly as you can, some of my friends, are taking a good deal of trouble in the matter, & as I have gone into it, I would dislike to fail for want of scientific support. Send what you can write yourself, or procure to be written, to me, that I may have it presented by some friend in Washington at the proper time.

Mr. Watts' treatment of Dr. Parry deserves the condemnation of every man of science, & I hope to see the time when such conduct will be

impossible, & the Department put under good scientific discipline, so as to give the people some equivalent for the large sum of money expended.

Yours sincerely yours
J. L. Leconte

Prof. Asa Gray,
Cambridge,
Mass.